

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Its Field Day time again.

We will be doing about the same thing that we did last year.

The event will be at Camp Via on the Sonoma Developmental Center.

Access to the locked gate will be like last year. There will be a combination lock (747) on a box that will give the entrant the card to slide into the gate control. Please remember to return the card and lock the box.

We will operate as 3A with a beam antenna and two wire antennas. I will try to get my 6 meter beam down and we can put that up. We just might get lucky and run into an opening.

The operators that bought up your laptop computers, please do so again. Make sure you have the net workable logging program on it.

We will start up the hill at 8:00 am, so it would be nice to meet there and go up as a group.

Remember this is event for everyone, wives, friends included, especially for dinner.

The main point is that to be sure to attend this month's meeting so we can plan for the weekend.

Hope to see everyone at McDougal Hall.

73, Jim, K6UUW

HOW HAM RADIO HAS CHANGED IN 50 YEARS!



This was then...



This is now!

—submitted by Jim, K6UUW

MINUTES, MAY 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM.
There were 10 present.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the VOMARC newsletter.

There was a brief review of the Hamfest. Sixty-eight breakfasts were sold.
There were 14 vendors.

The secretary has obtained the club's EIN in preparation for filing the form 990 for tax exempt status.

ACS: Hit the Road Jack is the next event and volunteers are still needed. There was discussion about making this event or some of the other events non ACS in order for more VOMARC members to participate. If anyone has any thoughts, please contact Ken, N6KM. Craig Cravats coordinates non ACS events and gets about 14 requests a year for help with various events.

SCRA has some events coming up, as well as does the Marin county club. These are posted on their clubs' websites.

At the last VE session, Craig, KF6QZP got his Extra class license. The session went well.

The AMGEM event was reviewed. Over all, it was felt that the event went well.

Field Day will be held on June 26 & 27th at Camp Via, Sonoma Developmental Center. The June meeting, which will be held at McDougal Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, will be the final planning meeting for Field Day.

The club will participate in the N6P event at Point Reyes Light House again this year. It is the first week end in August. More information will be discussed at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

A very interesting presentation of the K4M DXpedition on Midway Island followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU
Secretary

2010 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JUNE	EILEEN	KG6QNT
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	GEORGE	K6ITE
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2010 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JUNE	JOAN	W6WXU
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

TECH TEST GETS A LITTLE MORE TECHNICAL

—By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all.

There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

When not updating his No-Nonsense amateur radio license study guides, you'll find him on 40m, 30m, 20m, and if we ever get any sunspots to stick around, 15m and 10m pounding brass. You may even hear him trying to get the hang of using the bug he bought at Dayton this year. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, and you can e-mail website suggestions to cwgeek@kb6nu.com

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL — Vice-President,

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary

Marty Nemiroff, KI6RTP – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS JUNE 16, 2010 AT 7:30PM AT MC DOUGALL HALL AT THE
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IN ELDRIDGE.
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2010 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Marty KI6RTP, 20829 Via Colombard, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to:
VOMARC.